

LIVERPOOL.

The local sanitary Act is already doing its duty. "Steamers, instead of vomiting forth huge columns of black smoke, have been compelled to bring science to assist them in its consumption, and while the atmosphere on the river and about the pier heads is much purer, the unsightly nuisance which reflected such odium on this community has disappeared," and, together with it, the waste of a full third of all the fuel hitherto not consumed, as it now is, to the profit of those compelled thus to act no less without both annoyance and evil to others, than with both profit and good to themselves.

Besides the smoke nuisance, the Act contains various clauses respecting other nuisances and improvements, an abstract of which, though at some length, and from a merely local Act, we shall give without deeming any apology requisite, since doubtless, such provision for health of towns in general will be ere long no more merely local, but made generally applicable, either by the passing of numerous separate Acts or by the enactment of some one comprehensive measure, of a similar description, for the sanitary regulation of towns throughout the empire.

The Act in question, then, contains effectual and summary provision for preventing nuisances and annoyances in streets, or near thereto, and effecting cleanliness therein;—for registration and inspection of slaughter-houses and knackers' yards, and for removing filth therefrom at least once in every twenty-four hours, and keeping a sufficient supply of water in them;—for regulating the manner of keeping swine, and preventing the keeping thereof within any dwelling-house or knacker's yard, and for describing the limits within which it shall be lawful to keep the same;—for regulating the duty of scavengers, and the management of public privies and urinals;—for regulating the removal of the contents of middensteads and privies, and for preventing foul water soaking from any premises, and also for preventing any such middensteads or privies, or any hog-sty, dunghill, or manure heap from being a nuisance;—for registration of lodging-houses, and maintaining cleanliness therein under a penalty of 40s. and in case of a continuing nuisance, of 5s. a day. Similar penalties are to be inflicted for other nuisances. A medical officer of health is to see to the healthiness of dwellings, and the purification and white-washing of houses; and an inspector of nuisances is to act in his own proper province. The escape of gas is to be visited with a penalty of 5l. a day after twenty-four hours' notice, existing gas companies to be relieved from previous double penalties. In future, no house to be erected shall have any rooms less than 8 feet in height, except cellars, 7 feet if to be inhabited, or otherwise 6 feet. Every inhabited room must have one window 5 feet by 3 feet, or 15 feet in area; attic and cellar windows 3 feet square, or 9 feet in area; all to be casements opening on hinges or pivots, or double opening sashes. Every new house must be provided with an ash-pit, and a properly constructed privy, with a funnel or flue to carry off any offensive stench. The council may enter premises to cleanse or repair privies, cesspools, or drains, and recover the expenses. House drains, at a proper level, must be made on twenty-eight days' notice, wherever a sewer of sufficient size and proper level passes within 30 feet of any part of the house, and all gully holes of sewers or drains must be properly trapped, to prevent escape of noxious effluvia; a penalty of 5l. to be incurred for infringement of provisions for proper construction, stopping, or unstopping, of drains, &c. A map of all existing sewers, drains, water pipes, gas pipes, &c., on a scale of 10 inches to the mile, is to be kept at the Town Hall for inspection by owners of property. No street, being a carriage road, shall be made of less width than 30 feet, including footways of 5 feet clear on each side; and no house shall be built in any street of greater height than the width of such street; no court shall be built of less than 15 feet in width, with an open entrance the full width of the court; these latter provisions all under penalties of 20l. a day.

The *Liverpool Journal* states, that there were "some seventy candidates for the office of superintending the levelling and making of

sewers, that each and all of these sent testimonials of capacity and character from authorities competent to recommend, but that the sub-committee resorted to a very summary mode of disposing of their claims: that the question was not "What are they?" but "Who knows them?" A. B.—"Does any gentleman of the committee know him?" "None." "Knock him off?" C. D.—"Does any one know him?" "None." "Knock him off." Seventy were thus "knocked off," in the "twinkling of a bed post," and the remaining "five" would have shared the same fate, were it not for the prudent apprehension of Mr. Alderman Nicol, who apprized the committee that they ought to recommend some one. With characteristic facility they recommended the last, or nearly the last, five; but, on re-examination, it was discovered that none of these five would do, and the talk is, that on Thursday, Mr. Hartley was written to, to recommend a suitable engineer."

A report of the progress of the New North Dock shows the operations to be of much greater magnitude than is generally supposed, and that the whole of the nine new docks are in course of rapid completion. They cover an immense area, nearly the whole of which has been reclaimed from the strand of the Mersey. At the south end of this new range of docks there are three of them running eastward from the river; and these will form a chain communicating with the Leeds and Liverpool Canal. The eastern dock of this range is on the east side of Regent road; and it is probable that another may be formed between it and the canal on the east side of Great Howard-street. According to the *Liverpool Standard*, the walls round some of the docks are nearly at their full height from the bottom of the excavations, out of which, however, large masses of material have yet to be removed, chiefly of red freestone, the quarrying of which will, it is thought, go far to meet the expenditure. The walls are built up, to about the level to which the water will rise, of this stone; and above this they are of grey granite, in irregular blocks and pieces, presenting a patch-work appearance, like the outside wall of the Albert Dock, but of great strength, the mortar being milled, from the Halkin Mountain limestone, which sets rapidly, and becomes as hard as the rock itself. The discovery of the properties of this cement has already, it is said, saved much expense to the Dock Estate, as it appears that it is not requisite to hew the stones into square blocks as heretofore—pieces of any size or angular shape being applicable, provided they shew a smooth outward surface. The landing steps in the outward wall and the tops of the quays are of chiselled granite, and there is a vaulted or tunnelled passage at one of the landing-places for the conveyance of cattle, sheep, &c. The quays can scarcely be said to be yet formed, but on the sites which they will occupy, there are paved and macadamised roads, over a great length of which, including the margin of the sea-wall, a carriage may be driven. There are several large mortar-mills worked by steam. The lime is ground with fine clean sand, in circular revolving iron troughs, beneath huge circular grindstones, and the well-tempered cement is rapidly carted off, in a smoking state, to the several parts of the works where the masons are employed.

The site of the first of the new churches for Toxteth Park having been fixed on, the building committee have selected for its design one furnished by Mr. Hay. The style is middle-pointed. The building will consist of a nave with spacious aisles and clerestory. The roofs are high-pitched and shew all the interior timbers. In lieu of pews there will be open-benches for 1,100 people.—The amount already subscribed to the Church Building Society, which now exceeds 12,600l. was recently augmented by a donation of 500l. from the "Society for B. C. P. per J. B. Treasurer," into the secret of which somewhat cabalistic cyphers the *Express* thinks, it has "some inkling" though we confess our own darkness on the subject of this "kindly association in first-rate hands," who at all events evidently prefer doing good by something like stealth, rather than by that ostentation which is in truth the real motive of many charitable doings.

During the past year, the following houses and warehouses have been erected or in course of erection within the limits of

the municipal borough. Mr. Rishton, the Town Surveyor, has supplied these statistics. A vast amount of building, however, has also been going on in the outskirts, at Bootle, Walton, West Derby, Old Swan, Aigburth, &c.—Under 12l. per annum, 710; from 12l. to 25l., 3,328; from 25l. to 35l., 236; from 35l. upwards, 186; total, 3,460; warehouses, 44. Comparative statement of the number of houses erected in each year since 1837:—1838, 1,052; 1839, 997; 1840, 1,576; 1841, 1,761; 1842, 2,027; 1843, 1,390; 1844, 2,450; 1845, 3,728; 1846, 3,460; total, 18,441.

—The following churches are now in course of erection at Birkenhead:—St. John's, at the cost of Messrs. J. Mallaby, J. S. Jackson, and W. Jackson; St. James's, at the cost of Messrs. W. Potter, W. Jackson, and J. W. and McGregor Laird; St. Anne's and another at the cost of Mr. W. Potter; and St. David's, by public subscription, originated by the Rev. J. Baylee, for the Welsh inhabitants. There is also a new church building at Seacombe. These, with the churches of St. Mary and the Holy Trinity, and a chapel at Oxtou, lately opened, will comprise nine churches for the present population of 25,000, and Mr. W. Jackson and Mr. Potter have signified their intention to erect each an additional one next year.

ON BRICK MOULDINGS.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Bury Herald* says:—

"In a county like ours, where there are no quarries and so many clay pits, and where consequently stone is so dear and scarce, and bricks, both red and white, so common, I rather wonder that brick is not more used for the finer mouldings in the place of stone. In former times, and it might be equally so now, mouldings of all kinds were highly ornamented, frames to windows, porches, chimneys, &c., were made of brick. Besides being much cheaper, and quite as durable as stone, they had this advantage,—that the most intricate patterns could be made nearly as cheap as the plainest; and also, that any colour might be used, if not in the brick itself, yet on the outside and burnt in. White brick round the windows, or at the corners of houses, proves a good foil to shaped flints; red brick to white, and vice versa.

I shall mention one or two instances of the use of moulded bricks. Westhorpe Hall, one of the first buildings of this class, was erected by Brandon, Duke of Suffolk, about the year 1500, who resided there with his wife, a king's sister and widow. Though hardly a remnant even of the ruins remains, yet fragments turn up which shew the beauty of the brick mouldings. They are of a very hard and compact white brick, which retains its original sharpness, and some of them, having the duke's crest in relief upon them, still ornament a bridge of the same date as the hall. The other example is West Stow Hall, built by the same duke, the gatehouse of which is a noble specimen of brick building. As an example of the use of brick mouldings in churches, I may name Ixworth Thorp, a doorway of which church has its mouldings and circular (Saxon?) arch, formed of red brick."

The duty on bricks, levied as it now is, prevents any attempt at improvement, or experimental endeavours.

ENGLISH BUILDINGS IN CHINA.—The *Edinburgh Register*, in noticing a "Club-house, Victoria, Hong Kong," executed by Mr. George Millar from designs by Mr. George Strauchan, architect, Edinburgh, remarks, that though, five years since, on "Hong Kong," the "Island of Fragrant Showers," the only buildings were a few fishermen's huts and a low mandarin's house; already large and elegant merchants' houses and gardens extend a couple of miles along the sea beach; commodious barracks, and Catholic, Episcopal, and Presbyterian churches, are to be seen, with colleges for Chinese youths, and a mosque for Mussulman natives. Bungalows adorn the hill sides, with thriving plantations, and a drive equal, in picturesque, to our own, "Queen's Drive" [round Arthur's Seat, from Holyrood] encircles the island, commanding views of the mainland of "Quang Tung," the estuary of the Canton river, with its hundred islands, and a wide expanse of ocean.